

## **CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP**

### **MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

26 July 2006

1:00 – 4:00

#### **Handouts:**

1. CALFED OPS Meeting Agenda 26 July 2006
2. CALFED OPS Group Operations Briefing

#### **Announcements:** None

#### **SWRCB Activities**

1. 1995 Water Quality Control Plan Periodic Review is under management review. Process should be completed by the end of summer.

#### **On-Going Activities Related to the OPS Group**

1. Status of Response Plans: Fishery Response Plan is currently being prepared. The agencies are targeting to have it to the SWRCB this fall. Reclamation is evaluating the potential for maintenance work on the Delta Mendota Canal this winter and joint point of diversion may be necessary to assist with the fill and operation of San Luis Reservoir.

#### **Fishery Status:**

1. **Winter-Run:** Carcass surveys indicate the numbers appear similar to last year's. Approximately 15,000 adults and grilse. Problems were reported with the aerial redds survey due to high flows in May, and poor visibility. Distribution of redds is upstream of Balls Ferry, but there are redds below Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District Dam.
2. **Juvenile Salmon:** 1,600 Juvenile reported going through Red Bluff Diversion Dam.
3. **Spring-Run:** In a pro-active attempt to separate the Spring and Fall runs, Feather River Hatchery opened up gates early. 10,000 fish tagged and 7,000 clipped. There are still more anticipated. A record number of spring-run were seen on Antelope Creek. .
4. **Steelhead:** 1,600 reported un-marked. Normal year for Steelhead. Incidental take for this year is 3,000 fish. About 2,200 steelhead spawned at Nimbus Hatchery this year.
5. **Green Sturgeon:** Since October this year 72 green sturgeon have been salvaged at the export facilities (expanded number). This equates to 7 observed. The fish appear to show up year round. By comparison, 28 green sturgeon (expanded number) were caught last year. A public workshop was held July 20 to gather information to develop a Recovery Plan for the Green Sturgeon. It was considered a success.
6. **Delta Smelt:** The summer townet index for delta smelt for this year is 0.4. 20 mm survey shows a pretty wide distribution of Delta Smelt from Carquinez Straight up into Cache Slough. Reclamation requested reinitiation of consultation with FWS for the Delta Smelt. This consultation will be done in coordination with the consultation on the green sturgeon and critical habitat. The public review process for the biological assessment has not been identified yet, but is expected to include public workshops.
  - Sheila Greene presented a summary of genetic identification data on Chinook salmon from 2003, 2004 and 2006.
  - A workshop was held by NMFS on July 20 regarding Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Planning. It was considered a success. Additional workshops are planned (August 17) in Stockton at the Radisson Hotel, and August 22 in Redding at Turtle Bay Museum.

#### **Work Group Activities:**

1. DAT Update: Nothing to Report. Regular meetings are done for the season.
2. WOMT Update: No Operations decision items at meetings recently. There was a discussion regarding WOMT decisions and disseminating the information relative to the decision. WOMT will make an effort to improve documentation and communication of decision to stakeholders, especially when the decision may differ from the DAT recommendations. It is expected that agency representatives will be available on DAT calls for further clarification and information

when necessary. It was noted that the primary focus of DAT should be on the biology and WOMT may consider other issues such as availability of assets.

3. OFF: Nothing to Report.

**Operations Status:** SWP/CVP Operational Status Handout.

**CVP:** Keswick currently at 15,000 cfs. Trinity release to the river is at 450 cfs. Clear Creek at 90 cfs. Nimbus at 3,500 cfs and Friant is at 250 cfs. Tracy pumping is at 4,500 cfs. Delta salinity is good, Contra Costa chlorides is good.

**SWP:** DWR began pumping the additional 500 cfs at Banks (7,180 cfs total) in July when the San Joaquin River flow was about 10,000 cfs. The agricultural barriers could not be installed at the high flow. When the river flow dropped to 4,000 cfs in a week's time, the water level dropped in the South Delta. The additional 500 cfs export was discontinued until the barriers could be installed and operated. The export at Banks was increased back to 7,180 cfs on Friday, July 21. Oroville release to the Feather River is at 4,000 cfs. DWR is targeting 65 degrees in the low flow channel on the Feather River. State San Luis Reservoir storage is about 870 TAF. EWA debt was about 143 TAF, but has been reduced to about 140.1 TAF with the 500 cfs additional export at Banks.

- The Projects expect to be in excess conditions through the month of August.

**EWA Update:** EWA debt was about 143 TAF, but has been reduced to about 140.1 TAF with the 500 cfs additional export at Banks.

**Next Meeting**

August 23, 2006 – 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1131